

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

April 10, 1985

AM
10:00

CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: May 15, 1985, Wednesday
June 19, 1985, Wednesday
- B. Schedule of Commission meetings for remainder of 1985.
- C. Approval of the March 13, 1985 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

- 1. CFA 10/APR/85-1, Department of State Building, proposed modifications to the Twenty-first Street entrance; preliminary plan.
- 2. CFA 10/APR/85-2, Southeast Federal Center, proposed master plan, M Street, adjacent to the Washington Navy Yard, at the Anacostia River.

B. Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers

CFA 10/APR/85-3, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, proposed physical fitness center, Phase I; preliminary design.

C. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 10/APR/85-4, Fort Totten Park, preliminary design for proposed metro station; joint submission with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.
2. CFA 10/APR/85-5, Georgetown Waterfront Park; preliminary plan.

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Old Georgetown Act

1. O.G. 85-70, 3240 Reservoir Street, N.W., Proposed new condominium structure, revised concept designs.
2. O.G. 85-92, 3800 Reservoir Road, N.W., Proposed new Clinical Sciences/Health Facility Building, concept designs.
3. O.G. 85-107, 3028 N Street, N.W., Designs for new pool, pool house, terraces & retaining walls.

Appendix I.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 85-42, 1225 25th Street, N.W., New seven-story building, concept designs.
2. S.L. 85-46, 1610 H Street, N.W., Decatur House, addition of reception facility.
3. S.L. 85-47, 501-509 G Street, N.W., Renovation/restoration commercial building, concept review.

Appendix II.

III. INSPECTION

CFA 10/APR/85-6, Freer Gallery, Inspection of proposed acquisitions.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
*O.G. 85-84	1226 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. David Levy	Alterations & marquee

ACTION: Issue permit for building renovations including restoration of existing steel sash. Submit revised drawings for exterior lighting & sign which provide a level of illumination not to exceed 150 foot lamberts, and limit the sign to the 25 square feet allowed by the D.C. Building Code.

*O.G. 85-93	1307 35th Street, N.W. Ralph C. Ferrara	Construct gate, below grade arches & metal deck
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ACTION: Issue permit for gate and parking deck. The Commission is generally opposed to new curb-cuts in the historic district; however the proximity to commercial use, the saving of existing trees, and the agreement to screen parked car with a self-closing gate are mitigating circumstances which justify an exception to the rule.

*O.G. 85-95	3350 M Street, N.W. Forrest/Marbury Associates	Restoration & new residen- tial/office complex: Conceptual
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ACTION: Concept designs for restoration of the Forrest/Marbury House and additions to the sides and rear are approved for design development. Material samples, colors and working drawings shall be submitted for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to permit issuance.

O.G. 85-98	2903 P Street, N.W. Joanna Sturm	Swimming pool
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ACTION: Issue permit for construction of pool at this location as shown on drawings received and dated 13 March 1985. Request review of designs if existing fence is to be replaced with new construction.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 85-100	1222 28th Street, N.W. Ann Caracristi	Addition to residence: Conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of rear one story addition and increase to height of existing fence at sidewalk as shown on drawing received and dated 13 March 1985.

O.G. 85-101	1231-33 34th Street, N.W. Klinging Klein Limited Partnership	AC outlets
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ACTION: Issue permit for renovations and installation of airconditioning vents in transoms above projecting show windows.

O.G. 85-103	3145 N Street, N.W. Joan Ganz	Awning
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ACTION: Do not issue permit for "awning" sign as shown on drawing received and dated 13 March 1985. Request submission of single sign mounted on face of building, not to exceed 25 square feet in total area. Recommend sign of wood or metal construction with painted letters.

O.G. 85-105	1229 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. 1229 Wisconsin Avenue Associates	Construction fence
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ACTION: Issue permit for 8'-0" high, plywood construction fence to be painted grey or tan as shown on application received and dated 15 March 1985. Construction sign will be limited to size no larger than 25 square feet.

O.G. 85-106	3028 O Street, N.W. Timothy W. Stanley	Rear yard parking
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ACTION: Issue permit for parallel parking and new wall in rear yard off alley as shown on drawing received and dated 22 March 1985.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 85-108	3251 Prospect Street, N.W. Phoenix Georgetown, Inc. (Glorious Foods)	Addition of barbed wire

ACTION: Do not issue permit for the addition of barbed wire to the top of existing masonry wall. Recommend restudy of ways of providing increased security through addition of sloping masonry cap and/or iron pickets.

O.G. 85-110	3131 M Street, N.W. Robert S. Greenbaum	Replacement of enclosure material
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ACTION: Issue permit for the replacement of the existing wood siding enclosing basement stair with masonry. Paint new masonry to match existing.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 85-37	209 3rd Street, S.E. Richard & Mary Weirich	Deck

ACTION: Withdrawn by request of applicant.

S.L. 85-38	226 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. James Vito	Commercial renovation
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ACTION: No objection to renovation and remodeling of existing two-story commercial structure as shown on drawings received and dated 13 March 1985.

S.L. 85-40	505 H Street, N.W. Chinatown Deli	Projecting entrance bay
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ACTION: Do not issue permit. Proposed glassed-in areaway does not contribute to the streetscape, an area with special character, historic buildings, and substantial public and private improvements being planned or under way. Question having a doorway to a public restaurant directly at the head of a flight of stairs with inward opening doors.

S.L. 85-41	400 12th Street, S.W. McLachlen National Bank	Replacement doors and windows
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ACTION: Do not issue permit without additional information being submitted to and approved by Commission of Fine Arts. While there is no objection to the concept of replacing the door and windows, request accurate elevations showing replacement units in place, how they fit in existing openings, as well as any other building changes.

S.L. 85-44	3008 Dogwood Street, N.W. Curtis Bell	Swimming pool
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ACTION: No objection. Not in CFA jurisdiction.

THE , COMMISSION , OF , FINE , ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

10 April 1985

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. John S. Chase
Hon. Sondra G. Myers
Hon. Walter A. Netsch
Hon. Alan R. Novak
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

National Capital Planning
Commission staff present:

Mr. George Evans

D. C. Historic Preservation
Review Board staff present:

Mrs. Tanya Beauchamp

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings, approved as: Wednesday, 15 May 1985
Thursday, 13 June 1985

--or--

Friday, 28 June 1985

B. Schedule of Commission meetings for remainder of 1985. The schedule was examined and there was some discussion about the summer meetings. It was decided to schedule them for 31 July and 11 September, both Wednesdays.

- C. Minutes of the meeting of 13 March 1985, approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. CFA 10/APR/85-1, Department of State building, proposed modifications to the Twenty-first Street entrance; preliminary plans. Staff member Jeffrey Carson introduced this project, noting that it would combine security measures with a general upgrading of the appearance of the entrance and improved weather protection for those using it. He introduced architect Mark Butowsky from the State Department to discuss the design. Mr. Butowsky said this entrance (to a 1939 limestone building) was most frequently used as a taxi and employee entrance. He pointed out on a photograph the large area of asphalt paving, cluttered with parked cars, and the existing, deteriorating canvas canopy at the entrance. He said plans called for extending an existing platform at the building entrance, placing a permanent canopy structure over it, and constructing a new, shallow driveway and canopied drop-off area near the street. The canopy structures would be concrete with fiberglass roof panels; the columns would have both a structural and a security function. On the drawings Mr. Butowsky point out a similarly constructed connecting link between the street drop-off and the building entrance, but noted that he had been asked recently to work out a design that would eliminate this element. On either side of the connecting link were three-tiered granite planters, for security, placed mid-way between the street drop-off and the building entrance. A line of bollards, running across the entire entrance area at the street drop-off point, provided another measure of security. The area beyond these bollards would thus be closed to cars, eliminating the unsightly parking. Mr. Newell from the State Department was then introduced and told the members that the request to eliminate the connecting link had come both from cost considerations and the desire to keep the area open.

The members all thought that some kind of weather protection was needed between the street drop-off and the building entrance. Mr. Stone and Mr. Netsch were bothered by the center column in the link structure, and it was recommended that the architect study a metal pole and canvas structure for this link, which would keep the walkway clear. Mr. Stone also questioned the use of fiberglass for the canopy roof panels, thinking that it would cheapen the appearance. Mr. Netsch suggested a similar but better quality material, and Mr. Butowsky replied that actually he was not using fiberglass but another material very much like the one suggested by Mr. Netsch. The Chairman commented on the design of the planters, which would be five feet at their highest point, and suggested that Mr. Butowsky try a two-tiered design to see if it might be an improvement. Other than these recommendations, there were no objections to the design and the preliminary plans were unanimously approved. Design details will be seen later. Exhibit A

2. CFA 10/APR/85-2, Southeast Federal Center, proposed master plan, M Street, adjacent to the Washington Navy Yard, at the Anacostia River. The Assistant Secretary pointed out the location of this proposed federal development which will cover over 60 acres. He said it would be a multi-phase development eventually employing 30,000 people, and would require some fill land along the Anacostia. He pointed out the site for a mixed-use development to the west, Capital Gateway, inactive at the present, and the north-south line that divides the project from the Navy Yard. He recalled that the Commission had seen preliminary plans for the area in the 1960's and 1970's, some linked to plans for the Navy Yard. Jerry Shiplett from GSA was introduced to discuss the changes made since those plans had been seen. He said the formal plan developed in 1968 was now considered obsolete because ways of looking at such developments had changed; historic preservation was now an important factor, and government buildings had been opened up at the ground level to private commercial and retail development. He said the Navy's concepts had changed, too, in a direction away from mammoth office structures. The architects, Colden Florance and Mark Maves from Keyes, Condon & Florance, were introduced to discuss the new plan.

Slides of aerial views of the area were shown and the old industrial buildings pointed out. Mr. Florance said there was no timetable attached to the development, and he noted that the density had been based on what GSA wanted and what the streets and transportation system could absorb, thus the figure of a maximum of 30,000 employees. He said the plans called for a million square feet of adaptive reuse of buildings already on the site. Turning to the drawings, Mr. Florance outlined the main elements of the proposal. He said New Jersey Avenue would be extended into the site and would end in a square, around which would be grouped the tallest buildings (130 feet) in the project. Tingey Street, running east-west, would be continued to the Capital Gateway site. At the terminus of New Jersey Avenue, a drive following the river would begin; it would turn north along Isaac Hull Drive to M Street. The southeast quadrant would see the most intensive adaptive reuse, in addition to infill buildings of modest height, tapering down to 40 feet at the eastern end, near the Navy Yard. Low office buildings, following the grid plan, would be placed to the north, along M Street. Mr. Florance stressed the fact that building heights would vary, that this would not be a Crystal City type of development, and that the greatest heights would be concentrated towards the west, near the Capital Gateway development. Turning to the riverfront development, Mr. Florance said there would be a two-lane drive along the river, and although not a pedestrian type of development, there would be trees at the river's edge. Mr. Netsch commented that the Capital Gateway development would eventually need parkland along the river,

and he hoped that a Georgetown type commercial strip would not be allowed to creep in. Mr. Florance said there would be walks and seating along the river and that the retail would resemble the Harbor Place development in Baltimore. He noted that NCPC would have to review the proposal before any final plans were made. Mr. Florance commented next on the blighted area north of M Street, zoned R5B, and said he wanted to tie it into the new development and help bring about its revitalization. Mr. Netsch said he thought it important that the new master plan be able to accommodate change.

(Mr. Netsch then left the meeting briefly to attend the memorial service for the noted Washington painter, Gene Davis.)

Mr. Stone said that, ideally, the plan should include some residential development; he also thought the development of the river's edge should be examined very carefully and that it should be planned all at once, not piecemeal. He noted, too, that there was no coherent open space plan within the project, with the exception of the square at the terminus of New Jersey Avenue. Mr. Florance replied that both the Capital Gateway to the west and the Navy Yard to the east would be considered in plans for the waterfront, and he added that there would be a number of small park areas interspersed between the office blocks.

The Chairman said that, in general, the Commission looked favorably on this plan and particularly liked the idea of varying the building heights. He thought, however, that more study should be given to maximizing the use of the waterfront. Then he commented on another federal office center in the District, the Federal Triangle. He said the Triangle had never been completed, and a parking lot remained in what was originally to have been a park. He noted the existence of recent plans to complete the Triangle and said he hoped that money would be found to accomplish this before another large development was begun. Exhibit B

B. Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers

CFA 10/APR/85-3, Walter Reed Medical Center, proposed physical fitness center, Phase I; preliminary design. Mr. Carson reported that members of the staff had visited Walter Reed. He pointed out the existing physical fitness building and the proposed site for the new one, adjacent to a temporary structure housing hospital facilities. He showed slides of surrounding buildings, and also of trees on the proposed site, some of which will have to be removed for construction. He said the facility would be built in two phases, the gymnasium first and then a swimming pool. Mary Ellen Peters from the Baltimore Engineering District and Robert Lentz, the architect, were then

introduced. Mr. Lentz showed elevation drawings of the new building, noting that the red brick and cast stone trim would tie in with existing buildings, which are mostly modified Colonial Revival in style. He noted that some temporary buildings, not in this style, would be replaced. Mr. Carson pointed out to the members that the existing buildings were sited in accordance with a Classical plan, based on axial development. The Chairman told the architect that there was no objection to the building, although he hoped that it could be pushed farther into the ground, since it was for the most part windowless. He said the important issue here was the site plan, and whether it conformed to an overall master plan; he said he was not convinced that the Army's long-range planning had been entirely integrated with the existing buildings. Mr. Carson said the report mentioned the construction of a new 300 car parking facility near the new building; Ms. Peters said that had now been moved to a far corner of the grounds. Mr. Stone said he would want to see a master plan before making a decision; the Chairman agreed, adding that he would want to be in touch with the Planning Commission also. The project was disapproved pending further investigation and information.

Exhibit C

C. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 10/APR/85-4, Fort Totten Park, preliminary design for proposed metro station; joint submission with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Mr. Carson pointed out the location of this station, in upper northwest Washington, and said it would occupy Park Service land. He noted that there was already a Red Line metro station on the site, as well as the tracks of the B&O Railroad. The new station and track would run underneath what is existing and would involve some cutting into the parkland. He introduced Jeff Knoedler from the Park Service to discuss the submission. John Parsons from the Park Service and Stanley Allen from the office of Harry Weese and Associates, architects, were also present. Mr. Knoedler said that in 1968 the area had been designated for an Interstate highway; when that idea was abandoned, Metro took it over. He said originally an aerial structure had been planned that would have had a negative impact on the entire park area. As redesigned, the station was moved 500 feet back into Fort Totten and a tunnel constructed under the park and South Dakota Avenue; the result was the restoration of 50% of the park area. What once was 1200 feet of construction had been reduced to a 200 foot platform with a canopy-type station similar to the one at Glenmont. He said the hillside would be restored after the tunnel construction, and he thought the new design was a great improvement for this residential neighborhood. The Commission members agreed and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit D

2. CFA 10/APR/85-5, Georgetown Waterfront Park; preliminary plan. The Assistant Secretary located the boundaries of this proposed park on a map: it would run from the mouth of Rock Creek on the east to beyond Key Bridge on the west and would encompass several jurisdictions. He said the proposal included improvements at the mouth of Rock Creek, public access near the Rosewood Hotel and Washington Harbour projects, a major park area near Wisconsin Avenue, and additional park areas near Key Bridge; some of these areas would be on the developer's land, others on District or Park Service land. He said the Georgetown Board had seen this proposal from the Park Service and approved it in general, although they would not approve any provision for surface parking.

Park Service representative John Parsons asked to bring up two related subjects before discussion of the park plans began. He said first that the Park Service had received assurances from the District government regarding the transfer of its waterfront land to the Park Service; this followed the Commission's letter that made the approval of the Rosewood project contingent upon this transfer. The Secretary said he had seen the letter, but the City Council still had not acted and until they did the commitment was not a firm one. Mr. Parsons then discussed the ramps now being built over Rock Creek. He said the Whitehurst Freeway study showed them removed and a tighter ramp system constructed. However, Washington Harbour Associates had approached the District government and received permission to take down the old ramps and build a temporary ramp connection farther away from their buildings. He said it would be in place for 3-5 years only, and he acknowledged that the design had not been brought to the Commission, although he said the permanent ramp design would be. Jack Benjamin from the Park Service was then introduced. He said the park design had been predicated on passive recreational use, like Constitution Gardens. It would be informal from 31st Street to Key Bridge, with promenades and a bike path. Vistas down the streets would be maintained and the freeway screened with trees. There would be limited tour boat and power boat docking. Architectural elements would be restricted to small structures and benches; the greater number of these would be at the Wisconsin Avenue terminus. He noted that the aqueduct needed restoration, and at the other end of the park, it was hoped that the rail access to the GSA coal and ash house could eventually be eliminated. Mr. Stone asked if there was a possibility that there would be an interpretive center for Georgetown history somewhere in the area; Mr. Benjamin said that there were no plans for one, but there might be small facilities at the C&O Canal and at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue, manned by one person, that would serve this function. Mr. Netsch asked what would become of the parking lot at Thompson's Boat House near Rock Creek. Mr. Benjamin said it would be slightly smaller and the planting would be increased; the Chairman thought heavier planting

was definitely called for at the Virginia Avenue terminus. Mr. Netsch asked what had become of the Georgetown Business and Professional Association's plans to tear down the freeway. Mr. Parsons said the mayor had reviewed them, but they were rejected as too expensive. Mr. Stone said he thought the park plans were fine as far as they went, but he would ask that the Commission see section drawings.

Mr. Parsons then returned to a discussion of the transfer of land. He said he expected that the transfer from about 31st to 34th Street would come soon, but because of the work on Key Bridge and its ramps, he thought the transfer of that area would occur further in the future. He noted that NCPC would see these plans next.

Two people asked to comment on the park plans. Ann Satterthwaite, planner and recreation specialist, said she was concerned about the public's use of the park. She thought most users would come from the east and therefore there should be more, not less, parking in that area, especially because of the cul-de-sac nature of K Street. She also thought this design should be considered an interim plan, and that the final design should be very carefully thought out and perhaps arrived at through a competition. Donald Shannon, former president of the Citizens Association of Georgetown, was insistent that the land be transferred by deed, not by an agreement. He also commented on the proposal to dock the yacht Williamsburg on the waterfront for use as a restaurant; he said Georgetown did not need any more bars or restaurants and he thought the yacht might be more useful at the proposed Federal Center Southeast. He said he would be more receptive to a schooner used as a museum of Georgetown.

Michael Verguson from EDAW was then introduced to give the members more specifics on the park design. He said it would be a soft green in color, consisting of meadow areas, promenades and perimeter planting; the trees and shrubs would have an open feeling. He pointed out the walks and benches, bicycle paths, and the docking areas directly on the river. The Wisconsin Avenue terminus, the widest part of the park, would be treated as a gateway. In response to a question from Mr. Stone, Mr. Verguson said paving materials would be brick and possible granite slabs in some places. Mr. Netsch was concerned that bicyclists be separated from pedestrians, if possible, for safety reasons. Mr. Chase asked about lighting and was told the Washington globe would be used with secondary lights where needed. Mr. Netsch said he thought the plans were fine and did not think further studies or a competition were necessary. The Chairman told Mr. Parsons that the Commission's approval would be conditional on some kind of concrete evidence that the land would be transferred. Mr. Parsons said he believed this was forthcoming; he said the plats for the entire area would be signed and this would be binding, although the actual transfer of the land near Key Bridge would

come later. He said the Park Service would be in constant touch with neighborhood groups, and he noted that they had been asked not to do anything that would attract festivals or large group activities, but rather to keep the development very simple. Exhibit E

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Old Georgetown Act

1. O.G. 85-70, 3240 Reservoir Street, N. W., proposed new condominium structure, revised concept designs. The Assistant Secretary said this was a resubmission of a conceptual proposal; he recalled that the Commission had seen other plans and requested additional study. He said the Georgetown Board had also asked for more study, and their report was in the members' folders. The report requested guidance from the Commission on two elements: the razing of the rear wing of the old building on the northwest corner, and the problem of excessive bulk on the northeast corner. The Assistant Secretary showed a drawing of a revised scheme with a three story building plus an English basement, with parking reached through an opening where part of the old corner building now stands. He noted that there were also several alternate schemes with no English basement. The members preferred scheme 1B, without the basement. The architect, William Cochran, was then introduced. He said that he would restore the old buildings, and noted that he had moved the new construction away from these buildings to allow vehicular access straight back from Reservoir Street, after which a left turn would be made into the underground garage. The new building, with the exception of the easternmost section, had also been pulled back from the street with a wall in front. He said the new construction, without the English basement, would be three stories in height and would not be seen from Wisconsin Avenue.

Mrs. Alicia Boyd then read a statement on behalf of the neighbors. She thanked the Commission for disapproving the four story version and recalled the request that the old corner building be kept in the new scheme. She said the foreign investors who owned the property had little sense of the historic district and, because the old building needed repair, were planning to demolish a large part of it. (A neighbor then showed the Chairman sketches of the structure and how it could be used in the new design.) Mr. Netsch asked Mr. Cochran how many units were planned and was told three to six. There would be six spaces in the garage. The Chairman said he felt that although the building was very old, it was not of great historical or architectural importance; additionally, it had probably been moved to this site. He thought,

therefore, that part of it could be sacrificed if it would contribute to a better over-all design. Mr. Netsch, however, thought the problem could be solved by constructing only three units, all facing the street and having backyards with shared parking spaces. This would also provide open space behind the new construction. The Chairman suggested to Mr. Cochran that he try this and bring a design to the next meeting; he said a final decision would be made at that time.

Exhibit F

2. O.G. 85-92, 3800 Reservoir Road, N. W., proposed new Clinical Sciences/Health Facility building, concept designs. The Assistant Secretary showed drawings of this proposed addition to the Georgetown University Medical Center; it would be adjacent to the University Center, recently reviewed by the Commission as part of the new terraced construction to the south of the Medical Center. He said the Georgetown Board had seen it several times and asked for restudy of the exterior to make it more harmonious with nearby buildings. He said the design shown at this meeting had been approved by the Board for design development. The members all agreed with the Board's decision and the conceptual design was unanimously approved.

3. O.G. 85-107, 3028 N Street, N. W., designs for new pool, pool house, terraces and retaining walls. Mr. Carson told the members that this construction would be barely visible from public space; the principal concern had been the view from the gardens of the Old Stone House, and the conclusion was that it would actually be enhanced. The Board had also been assured that the walls facing adjoining property would be finished in face brick. The members agreed and approved the project unanimously.

4. Appendix I, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 85-42, 1225 25th Street, N. W., new seven-story building, concept designs. The Assistant Secretary opened the discussion by noting that another building in this three-building complex should have been reviewed under the Shipstead-Luce act but was not, through an oversight. The architect, Vlastimil Koubek, assured the Commission that this had not been intentional. He showed a model of all three buildings, built for the Bureau of National Affairs, saying that it was a mixed-use project, 90 feet in height, and that the building submitted at this meeting would be a hotel. He said it would be similar in style to the others, but instead of using a granite base and light-colored brick facing, this would have a limestone base with precast concrete as the basic material. There were no objections to the designs or the materials, but Mr. Netsch noted that there should be some modification of the Shipstead-Luce regulations so that a slip-up, such as happened in this project, would not happen again.

2. S.L. 85-46, 1610 H Street, N. W., Decatur House, addition of reception facility. Staff member Sue Kohler recalled that the Commission had seen and approved preliminary designs for this carriage house facility in October 1983. She reviewed the approval of the demolition of an old, much-altered outbuilding on the site, the plans for renovation and some alteration of the old H Street wing, which included moving several doors and windows, and the approval of the design of the new building of stucco and slate, which took its materials and entrance details from the H Street wing adjoining. She said there had been some slight modifications in the final drawings, the one most visible from public space being the addition of more mechanical equipment, resulting in a further cutting away of the hip roof on the elevation that would face the NEOB building. She introduced architect Jack McCartney to discuss this and answer questions. The members looked at drawings and it was decided that the mechanical equipment would be only minimally visible and was not objectionable. Mr. McCartney reviewed plans for the courtyard and the interior organization of the new facility. There were no objections and the final drawings were unanimously approved.

3. S.L. 85-47, 501-509 G Street, N. W., renovation/restoration of commercial building, concept review. Mr. Carson showed contemporary photographs of this building, a Victorian structure of c.1870, and noted that the ground floor had been completely altered. The Chairman asked if there were any historical photos, and Mrs. Kohler (and the architect) said they had never seen any. Mr. Carson said the proposal was to restore the exterior of the building, including the iron roof cresting, use the first and second floors and the basement for a restaurant, and at present, leave the upper floors unfinished. He introduced the restoration architect, Joseph Lohendro of Richmond to discuss the proposal. (The architect, William Ballinger of Leesburg, was not present.) Mr. Lohendro said that one original bay of the first floor remained, and it would be used as a basis for restoring the other storefront bays that had run along the ground floor. Each store had a bay and a door. The doors would be furnished with red awnings. The members unanimously approved the restoration concept but suggested that the awnings were too rigid in appearance, and thought a softer, more period look would be better. Mr. Lohendro was questioned on the matter of signs and said there would be just one, at the corner. Final details will be seen later.

4. Appendix II, approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

10 April 1985

11.

III. INSPECTION

CFA 10/APR/85-6, Freer Gallery, inspection of proposed acquisitions. The members delegated their authority in this matter to the Chairman, who inspected and approved the objects. Exhibit G, G-1

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT A

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

JOHN S. CHASE

SONDRA O. MYERS

WALTER A. NETSCH

ALAN R. NOVAK

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Miles:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on 10 April 1985, reviewed the design of a new entrance canopy and other modifications to the 21st Street entrance forecourt of the State Department Building. The plans were presented by Mark Butowsky of your office.

The Commission was generally pleased with the design. The present entrance does not function particularly well and its overall appearance is harsh and uninviting. The new canopy should help improve the situation on both counts, while the proposed security barricades could actually enhance the entrance by providing a stepped bank of planters that with the right materials could be an attractive feature. In this regard, we suggested that the planters be limited to two tiers rather than three, since the additional height of the third tier is not needed for security reasons, and the overall effect will not be so formidable and crowded around the entrance point.

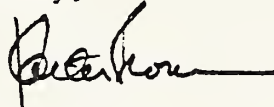
There was also some discussion about the design of the canopy itself. One key here is to keep it as simple as possible. There might be some advantage in designing the supporting structure with pairs of columns flanking the entrance walk, instead of a single column in the center, although the additional vertical structure might begin to look excessive. If the east-west link became a connector out of some lighter material, such as canvas, it could be supported at the edges by pipe stanchions, as in the traditional vocabulary of canopies.

Mr. Frank L. Miles
Page 2
April 18, 1985

The architect agreed to give these options some additional study, including looking into alternatives to fiberglass as the canopy material.

The Commission will be happy to review final designs when ready, and consult informally between meetings if time is a factor. Our next meetings are scheduled for 15 May and 28 June.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Frank L. Miles
Chief, Architectural/Structural Section
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
7th and D Streets, S. W., Room 2319
WPCPA - Professional Services Branch
Washington, D. C. 20407

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT B

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Madison:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed conceptual plans for the development of the Southeast Federal Center at its meeting on 10 April 1985. I am pleased to report that the proposal was very well received by the Commission, and we recommend that further design development proceed along the lines described in the drawings and the accompanying report.

We particularly commend the principle that this area be developed as an extension of the city and not treated as the separate enclave it has been since its early days as part of the Naval Gun Factory. This would be achieved by removing the high walls now surrounding the area and by extending the public street system just short of the waterfront. The resulting parcels of land would then be developed much in the same manner as other city blocks with, of course, the added advantage that the building heights and designs can be varied to add more interest than would be possible under a strictly commercial development.

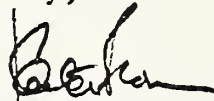
During our meeting there was some concern expressed about the proposed treatment of the area immediately adjacent to the Anacostia River. We agree with the architects that it should not be treated as a "passive" green park typical of many other Washington waterfront parks but should reflect some of the hard-edged quality that has been its chief characteristic over its long history as an industrial site. Just how much access should be provided the automobile, however, is still open to question. Undoubtedly, there ought to be some, but the design of the roadways and landscaping should be such that one feels the water's edge is primarily for the enjoyment of the pedestrian and not the motorist. I'm sure the architects can develop such a design within the framework of the proposed plan.

The Commission looks forward to the continued development of this very special area as a major federal employment center. We would, nevertheless, like to point out that the Federal Triangle remains incomplete despite the fact that it was begun more than fifty years ago.

Mr. William S. Madison
Page 2
April 18, 1985

There are still the unfinished ends of buildings blighting the appearance of Pennsylvania Avenue right next to the Post Office and District Building, and the Great Plaza continues to function as a parking lot and is one of the worst eyesores of the city. We have approved some excellent plans for the development of more office space in the Triangle that would correct this situation but to date nothing has happened. The Commission would hope that plans for the Southeast Federal Center will not proceed at the expense of keeping the Triangle in its present sorry state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Carter Brown', written over a vertical line.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. William S. Madison
Regional Administrator
GSA - National Capital Region
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Room 7022 WA
Washington, D.C. 20507

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT C

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Mr. McCormick:

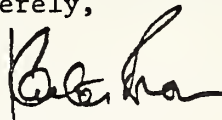
The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed proposals for a new Physical Fitness Center at the Walter Reed Medical complex during its meeting on 10 April 1985.

While we have no serious objections to the design, there are a number of questions we have on the proposed siting of the building, and its relation to existing buildings and others yet to be constructed.

We therefore are requesting additional information on the Master Plan for the entire complex so we might have a better idea of how this new structure will or could be made to fit in with the overall scheme of future development.

Our next meetings are scheduled for 15 May and 28 June 1985, and we would be happy to review this material at either of these times.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. William N. McCormick, Jr.
Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Engineering and Construction
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20314-1000

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT D

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN E. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Jack:

During its meeting of 10 April 1985, the Commission was pleased to discuss with Jeff Knoedler of your staff preliminary designs for the addition of a new subway line and station platform to the existing Metro station at Fort Totten Park. The members concurred that the short span of exposed track as illustrated by the submitted materials would not be a detriment to the park system and commended the engineers and architects for their efforts to create as little permanent disturbance as possible within the surrounding terrain.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
National Capital Parks
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Room 336
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT E

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN E. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Jack:

The Commission of Fine Arts met with John Parsons and Jack Benjamin, of the National Park Service, on April 10, 1985 to review the concept plan for a Georgetown Waterfront Park. I am happy to report that in the Commission's opinion it is a good design, fitting in nicely with the character of other waterfront parks, yet possessing its own special features. The series of open spaces that relate to the entry points at the ends of the north-south streets, and the separation of bicycle and pedestrian traffic was especially noted. We also like the way the view of the Potomac River is maintained by keeping the storey height of the trees fairly high and limiting the lower landscape elements to a maximum of three or four feet. The slight berming of the grades that is proposed also will add interest. The members of NPS staff who helped prepare these plans are to be commended for their efforts.

The Commission was also pleased with the more detailed design for the area between the foot of Wisconsin Avenue and 31st Street. The creation of a single large open space in the center plus the planting of enframing groves of trees will provide not only a screening of the Washington Harbor complex but also an excellent contrast to the density of the adjacent development. The termination of the extended Virginia Avenue axis at Thirty-first Street, rather than extending it to Wisconsin Avenue as originally proposed, is also helpful in this respect. We understand that Mr. Vergusson of EDAW, Inc., the landscape architect for this portion of the park, will be completing final designs shortly and we look forward to reviewing them.

While the developments we viewed today are very encouraging, and plans for this long-awaited park appear to be moving ahead, the Commission is still very concerned by the lack of an actual transfer of District lands to the Park Service. Particularly disturbing is the scheme to omit a very substantial portion of land from transfer at this time for the reason that it is to be used as a staging area for repairs to Key Bridge and the Whitehurst Freeway.

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.

Page 2

April 18, 1985

This area may well be needed for this purpose, yet we see no reason why the actual land transfer cannot take place now, with an agreement that the District can still use the space for the duration of the construction work. The fact that there will be continuing pressure to use this space for future parking for the Williamsburg yacht or some other commercial venture is not reassuring, and we are concerned that the city government may be reluctant to effect the transfer once the space is no longer needed for the construction materials.

This may be good reason to proceed now on acquisition of the old ice house site and the three brick row houses next to the Potomac Boat Club. If this land were available for the forthcoming construction programs, there would be little reason remaining to delay the transfer of what is a very critical portion of the park. I hope serious consideration can be given to this idea.

The Commission will be meeting again on 15 May and 28 June, and we will be happy to look at final plans for the first phase of construction at either of these times. I hope we can also get a more encouraging report on the status of the land transfer.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
National Capital Parks
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Room 336
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

EXHIBIT F

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

April 18, 1985

Dear Ms. Thompson:

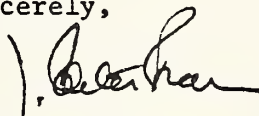
At its meeting on 10 April 1985, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a report from its Board of Architectural Consultants on a revised study for a condominium at 3240 Reservoir Street, N. W., (O.G. 85-70) and also three new designs that were submitted following the Boards review in response to their recommendations, a copy of which is attached to this report.

While we agree that both the designs viewed by the Board and the three schemes subsequently submitted are improvements over earlier versions, we requested that the architect make some additional studies with the hope that a further reduction in scale and mass can be achieved. These studies should focus on a solution that reflects a vertical "townhouse" organization of three proposed residential units with shared parking. By expressing the building organization in this way, the design should then relate more closely to the proportion and scale of the single-family dwellings farther east on Reservoir Street.

The Commission will be meeting again on 15 May, and we hope that enough progress can be made on the additional studies so they can be compared with the designs viewed on April 10 and a decision can be reached as to which scheme holds the most promise for development of final drawings.

The Board will next meet on 23 April and 7 May, and the new studies should be presented at one of those meetings for their review.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Carol B. Thompson
Director
Department of Consumer and
Regulatory Affairs
614 H Street, N. W., Room 307
Washington, D. C. 20001

F R E E R G A L L E R Y O F A R T

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

EXHIBIT G

11 April 1985

Mr. Charles Atherton
The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

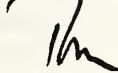
Dear Charles:

Carter came to the Freer on Wednesday afternoon, April 10, to look at the objects we are planning to purchase for the collection. He approved our selections, and I am sending you a copy of the list for your records.

As you will see, there are several fine examples of Chinese calligraphy in this latest group. We will be showing all of our calligraphy (Chinese, Japanese and Near Eastern) in August 1986 for a special meeting of the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art. There will be a special opening for the show, so you will have an opportunity to see all of the examples you have approved on public display.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Thomas Lawton,
Director

One enclosure

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

APR 11 1985

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and the Commission of Fine Arts, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles Lang Freer, have examined the following objects:

Gifts to the Collection:

- 1 Chinese jade axe with biconical perforation; Late Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C.
- 1 Chinese jade figure of Buddhist apsaras; Sung dynasty, 960-1279.
- 1 PAIR of Chinese gilt bronze plaques, flying goose and clouds; T'ang dynasty, 618-906.
- 4 Chinese glass oval-shaped objects, each with a pair of holes in the iridescent surfaces; dark green; T'ang dynasty, 618-907.
- 1 SET of Chinese cricket gourd moulds; Ch'ing dynasty, 19th century
- 1 Japanese moulded porcelain plate; Edo period, 1615-1868.
- 1 Turkish firman; Ottoman period, dated 1694; colors and gold on paper.

Purchases for the Collection:

- 1 SET of 4 Chinese calligraphy; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; by Yang Hsien, 1819-1896; ink on paper; hanging scrolls.
- 1 SET of 4 Chinese calligraphy; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; by Yu Yueh, 1821-1902; ink on paper; hanging scrolls.
- 1 COUPLET of Chinese calligraphy; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; by Wu Ta-chang, 1835-1902; ink on paper; hanging scrolls.
- 1 SET of 4 Chinese calligraphy; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; Lu Hui, 1851-1920; ink on paper; hanging scrolls.
- 1 Chinese painting; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; by Lu Hui, 1851-1920; landscape; ink and colors on paper; fan painting.
- 1 Chinese calligraphy; Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1912; by Lu Hui, 1851-1920; ink on paper; fan painting.
- 1 PAIR of Japanese paintings; Edo period, 1615-1868; Nanga school; by Watanabe Gentai, 1749-1822; spring landscapes ~~colors on paper~~; hanging scrolls.
- 1 Japanese bronze mirror; Heian period, 794-1185.

Purchases for the Collection (continued)

- 1 Persian metalwork; Sassanian, 7th century; oval dish of silver and gold; design of central square composed of four birds surrounded by six medallions composed of birds and rosettes.
- 1 Korean pottery unglazed jar; Old Silla, 6th century.
- 1 Turkish metalwork; Ottoman, 16th century, gilt jug; marked with a tughra, probably of Sultan Selim I, 1512-1520.

4-10-85- 5/ Robert Mc C Adams
For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

4-10-85- 7/ J Carter Brown
For the Commission of Fine Arts

MEETING:

15 May 1985

